

Lynne H.

EXHIBIT 15
DATE 2/16/07
HB 479

GENERAL GUIDELINES ON GIVING TESTIMONY AT A HEARING AT THE MONTANA LEGISLATURE

Dear Friends and Supporters: Many of you have given testimony before and therefore don't need further information. This is just a refresher for those who don't do a lot of testifying at hearings. Thank you very much for your help and support.

Hearing: Date February 16, 2007, Time: 3.00 pm, Place: State Capitol, Room 137

1. Please see the suggested messages at the end of this sheet that we are requesting you to give in your testimony.

2 minutes only

2. Prepare your comments and type them on a sheet. Focus on presenting facts or stories that articulate the 2-3 key messages. You have 3 1/4 minutes only to give your comments. This means about 3/4 to 1 page of typewritten notes.

3. Please bring one extra copy of your prepared testimony (on letterhead if you are representing an agency) and give to Katie or Minkie at the start of the hearing. We will collect one copy of the testimonies and submit them to the chair at the end of the hearing.

4. When you start to speak, please say:

"Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is _____. I am here on behalf of (your organization) or (myself, as a parent, student, etc.) if you are not representing an organization. I serve as (very briefly state your title, or you can skip that so you don't lose time).

Don't worry about reading every word as it is written. If something important pops into your mind, feel free to say it. As long as you keep to your time.

5. Next, say "I am here as a proponent of HB 479".

6. Say your comments. NOTE: If someone before you made the same points as you are planning, please don't worry – repetition is very good and helps the legislators.

7. It is good to look at the chairman, as well as other committee members.

8. When you are done – please say:

" Mr. Chairman, a copy of my comments are being submitted to you. Thank you for your time".

Key Messages

SNP support children by providing them with adequate nutrition so they are ready to learn, and grow up to be productive adults.	SNP support working families by increasing access to healthy meals and snacks, and helping parents who need to work during school hours.	SNP supports the Montana economy by supporting education, procurement of local foods, purchase of equipment from vendors, and provides jobs. Increased participation in the programs also helps to stabilize school budget.
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** Please add any relevant facts or a story to the message you are giving.

Lynne - 2 points

① need for SNP in your children's lives

② need as working parents (2 parents) for SNP & want to help them ready to

Support of House Bill 479

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I'm a professional parent of a kindergartner with some special needs at Whittier Elementary school in Bozeman. Whittier is the Title I school in Bozeman, meaning that over 50% of these children are eligible for free or reduced meals.

I have been able to eat lunch with my child and his peers several times a month during this school term. For some of my child's classmates, school lunch will be their first meal of the day.

From my experience schools feel passionate about their responsibility to provide students healthy fresh food as a way to promote better learning. Support of school meals is essential for academic success of Montana's next generation. Research supporting the connection between academic performance and balanced nutrition is extensive and strong.

Every parent has the responsibility to nourish their children, but for many in Montana this is not always possible. In many houses across Montana there isn't enough food to go around. Montana schools need financial assistance in updating and maintaining their facilities to strive to provide optimal nutrition for our children.

I ask for your support of House Bill 479 for a one time allocation of funds to help Montana schools ensure that our children are ready to learn. School meals are an essential link to the everyday foundation for academic success. Our children need school meal programs to achieve their highest potential.